

SEVERN ACADEMIES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Spring 1 Edition | Parent Newsletter

Message from Mr C King (CEO)

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge thanks as always for your support of our schools again over this term. Whilst we have seen more young people in our schools over January than previous lockdowns, clearly the vast majority have been learning at home supported by yourselves. Our approaches and preparation for remote learning has naturally progressed with nearly 10,000 live lessons taking place this term across our schools. These have been complemented by online resources and bespoke support for families where needed which we hope has been as appropriate as possible for you.

We have supported hundreds of families with devices to support remote learning from both our own resources and from the government's laptop scheme and whilst we know more families need support we hope this has been able to aid hundreds more children at this time. I must thank our staff for supporting both children in school and at home during this time and of course, our IT teams that are making this all work for us in the background.

As you will know we are still waiting for a decision on when students are returning to schools and whilst we currently know that this won't be before 8th March, we will hopefully know more about how this will happen and whether this will be staggered etc in the next few weeks. We will of course, let you know as soon as anything is published on this.

In the meantime, thank you again for all your work supporting our young people with their learning and from all of us at SAET, we wish you all a safe and restful half term break.



Children's author supports tribute to Wilden headteacher





Popular children's author Jeremy Strong read a story to the pupils of Wilden All Saints CE Primary School as part of a tribute to their much-loved headteacher on the first anniversary of her death.

The staff and children joined together in a "Share a Story" week as a tribute to Francesca Fishwick who was passionate about reading.

Mrs McDonald, Head of school, said they were "honoured" when the prolific children's writer, famous for his funny stories, offered to record Armadillo and Hare and the Very Noisy Bear especially for the Wilden children."

They also heard 23 stories during last week recorded by staff and friends of the school. The children were then challenged to read them all and to share stories creatively.

Mrs McDonald said: "Lots of teddy bears were read to and even a blue tongued skink. In our collective worship we talked about how sharing a story helps to bring us closer to others and is a way of showing love and gaining a feeling of togetherness while we are apart."

She added: "We had a fantastic week sharing stories together. The children continue to inspire us every day with their enthusiasm and creativity and we know that Mrs F would have been very proud of all that has been achieved in the last year."

Mrs Fishwick, a mother-of-three who had led the school for five years died on January 29, 2020, just four months after being diagnosed with cancer, aged 41.



Baxter College delivers 240 food parcels to students!





Food parcels sent to families by school catering companies have been criticised nationally, but parents of children at Baxter College have praised the quality of what they have received.

Baxter College staff distributed 240 hampers put together by caterers AiP, along with breakfast hampers funded through the National School Breakfast Programme.

Baxter have now moved over to the government-funded free school meal vouchers, which started to be rolled out across the country, but Mr Carpenter, Principal said the stop-gap measure had been "well received".

He said: "The logistics of providing food parcels for students entitled to free school meals is difficult to sustain and the vouchers give families the opportunity to buy what they know their children enjoy best.

"Some inadequate food parcels sent out last week nationally caused a furore, but I'm pleased to say that ours seem to have gone down well."

One parent messaged: "Thank you so much for the hamper, it's amazing," while another wrote: "A massive thank you to Baxter and staff. Our hamper has just been dropped off - wow! To say I'm pleased is an understatement."

The fortnightly breakfast hampers, which have been offered to all Baxter College students since last term, are ordered by families, put together by school staff and will be available for collection by parents on allocated days throughout lockdown.

Mr Carpenter added: "None of this is easy and the education sector is under enormous pressure to remote educate, feed, safeguard, virus test and protect from infection. It's a herculean effort and everyone has risen to challenge, but that's not to say there won't be difficulties sometimes."

The NEW Stourport High School website has been launched!



SHS.WORCS.SCH.UK

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW!](#)

Thank you SAET IT for the extra support!





SAET pupils and students have tuned into almost 7,500 live lessons with their teachers 118,648 times in the first three weeks of lockdown which is incredible!

Our latest figures reveal an 80-90% engagement with online learning across the eight schools and have bought 170 laptops to support disadvantaged families and top up its government allocation of 316.

IT lead Mr Morton said: "The national scheme is amazing, but it's just not enough and there are issues with the supply chain. We are still waiting to receive 95 of the devices."

The SAET IT support team is working "round the clock" to serve 230 teaching staff, more than 3,000 pupils, parents and the wider community.

Mr Morton said their IT support desk has seen a 123% increase in the number of inquiries being handled since extending opening hours to between 7.30 am and 6 pm for phone calls and up to 7 pm for emails.

Members of the public have also given old devices to some of the schools, which are being refurbished and distributed to families in need, and this week the trust has set up a website donate.saet.co.uk where people can make donations and get more information.

Mr Morton added: "Access to a good internet connection at home is one of the biggest issues we face. If parents don't have an internet connection, there are a few options for support from the government scheme and to access this they should get in touch with their schools in the first instance."

Mr King, SAET chief executive, said: "Our expert IT team has been working round the clock over the past year to develop new systems of working, and continues to support our pupils, staff and families grappling with so much that is new.

"The response to the remote learning this term has been fantastic, with the vast majority of our pupils engaging and where they are not, our schools are doing everything they can to support them.

"It is vital for our children's future and wellbeing that they have the opportunity to continue their education at this time.

"Our teaching staff have had to learn new ways of delivering lessons and staying connected with their pupils. The admin for online learning takes much longer than for face-to-face teaching, but they have risen to all the challenges and we are supporting them in every way we can."

Anyone in the SAET learning community experiencing IT issues can email itsupport@saet.co.uk for help.

Stourport High School staff raising funds for mental health charity





Big-hearted staff at Stourport High School are on track to raise £500 for mental health charity Mind with a 500km running and cycling challenge.

The four members of the school's pastoral team aim to complete their challenge within the month and are already more than half way there.

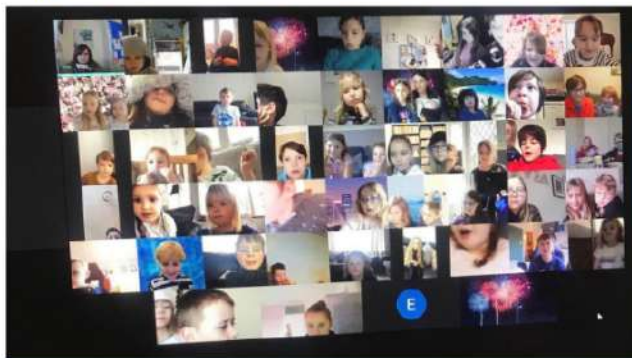
Team member Mrs Hale, vice principal for student welfare, said: "The impact of the pandemic on our mental health is massive, from fear of catching the virus, bereavement and isolation, to job losses and economic pressures.

"Young people are particularly vulnerable, with their education disrupted, lack of social interaction and worries about their future life chances. "Mental health services are under even more pressure than normal and we wanted to do something to help and to raise the profile of exercise, which is important not just for our physical wellbeing but for our mental health too."

Wolverley Assembly



wolverley_saet



Just under 100 home learners are joining weekly remote celebration assemblies set up to keep the children of Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy in touch with each other during lockdown.

They are using the events to help maintain links between pupils learning from home and around 60 priority group children who are in school each day.

Executive headteacher Mrs Reeves-Walters said: "We are drawing in most of our remote learners to the assemblies now which is no mean feat and it's wonderful to see all their faces on the screen.

"The emotional well-being and unity of our school community is vital and live links with the pupils learning at home are maintaining and promoting connections with our pupils in school."

She said those at home have access to everything that is offered in school, with daily live lessons and follow up opportunities for children to correct any misconceptions.

To further engage and support pupils, the school has its own Joe Wicks, sports and physical therapy lead by Mr McDonnell, also known as Mr Mac, who is doing Monday Motivation challenges posted on Instagram and providing live PE lessons for children working at home.

Pupils are also being invited to send love heart messages to NHS staff as part of a Valentine's Challenge to fill a display wall at the Worcestershire Royal Hospital and a new weekly Hug Time - where pupils and their families nominate someone who would like a big hug from everyone at the school - has been launched.

Mr King said: "The magnificent work led by Mrs Reeves-Walters and her team is an example of the creative approach that can be seen throughout our schools to support our children and their families during this incredibly difficult time."

St Bartholomew's receive £8K for Healthy Play Project



A fundraising appeal to build an extensive healthy play and wellbeing trail at St Bartholomew's CEVC Primary has smashed its second phase target following a generous £8,000 donation from a local business.

Mr Tidmarsh, chairman of Stourport-based outdoor play equipment manufacturer Brave Toys, said online sales rocketed during last summer's lockdown and the staff wanted to share their luck.

It not only means phase two can be installed at St Bart's, but some of the final phase of the PTA-led project can also go ahead earlier than expected.

Headteacher Mr James said: "We're thrilled the appeal has been given such a tremendous boost.

With £9,600 now available we can afford a pick-up-sticks play frame with commando ropes and choose items from the third phase.

"To receive this amazing windfall just as we were breaking up for Christmas was overwhelming – the best festive gift we could receive.

"We are truly grateful to Brave Toys as it means so much to us to have this outdoor equipment, which is designed to challenge and enhance the fitness levels and health of our children, whilst having fun."

Mr Tidmarsh, who is also chairman of TFH, makers of specialist toys for children with disabilities, originally a division of the former well-known TP Activity Toys, said his companies had been "very fortunate" despite Covid-19 and the problems created by Brexit. TFH, which exports 20 percent of its production to Europe, prepared for Brexit and the prospect of shipping problems by opening a branch in Sweden to supply European customers.

Mr Tidmarsh said: "We have been lucky and decided to share our luck locally. Outdoor play is close to our hearts so funding an addition to the play area at St Bart's seems very appropriate. We hope the children will enjoy and develop self-confidence through play for many years to come."

Mr James added: "Our PTA is working incredibly hard to raise money for this project, which also attracted a £15,000 grant for the running track from rugby's charity The Wooden Spoon, to enable the £24,000 first phase featuring an activity frame and daily mile running track to be installed last September."

Noah the Litter Picker from Hartlebury CE VC Primary





Every Thursday, since the first lockdown in March 2020, Noah from Hartlebury Primary decided to start litter picking around the village.

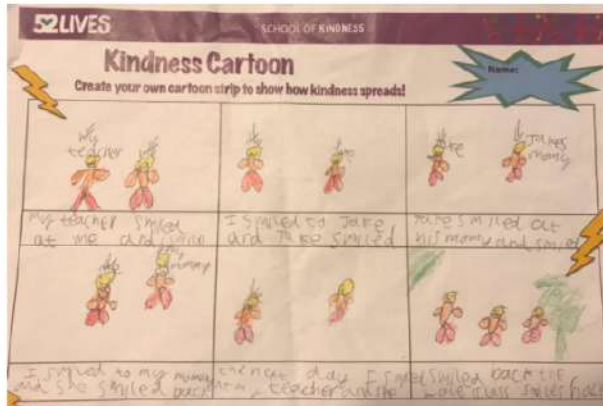
Noah and his family go out every week to pick up any litter that has been dropped throughout the village. Noah takes his little bag and gloves and spots lots of litter that he then takes back home and leaves outside ready for the bin men to collect and take away with them.

Through this extraordinary act of kindness, Noah now understands the damage that can be done to the world if people don't put their rubbish in a bin.

Noah is also a big animal lover, since finding out that litter can harm animals and can make them very poorly if left lying around, he is super keen to find every last bit, down to the tiniest of tiny.

Noah never moans about it and is really keen to make everything nice and clean. What an absolute superstar you are Noah. We are all very proud of you.

Kindness is Contagious

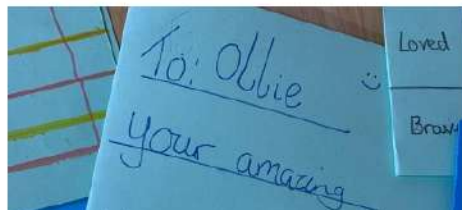


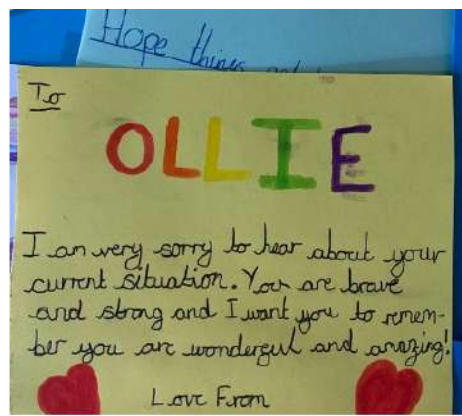
This term, the children at Stourport Primary have been working with the kindness charity "52 Lives". Each week Miss Carbine updates classes with information from the weekly kids' magazine. This includes kindness challenges, kind stories of the week, self-kindness tips and competitions. Lots of pupils have entered the national competitions and so far, the school has had two winners which is fantastic.

Challenges that have been set so far for the year groups to take part in include creating a cartoon strip to show how kindness can spread, to write a kind message to a boy named Ollie that was being bullied in another school and creating a poster to show what everyone is grateful for.

The school pupils also created Christmas cards to be sent with presents that were being delivered to children by the charity.

Well done to everyone at Stourport Primary Academy that has entered and taken part in the activities.





Wilden "Share a Story" Week!



'Share a story week' was a huge success and we know our children's love of reading will always be there! Look at all the fantastic photos that were sent into school! Well done children!





Baxter College students create amazing artwork!



Wow, just wow! 😍

Our year 9 students have been learning about the artist Marcia Baldwin last week and have worked hard to recreate some of her artworks.

These are just a selection of the outstanding quality of work they have produced! Keep up the good work!

Big increase in lockdown school attendance

The Trust schools are teaching many more children on-site compared to the start of the first lockdown last March. We are experiencing a 200% increase overall in the number of key worker and vulnerable children attending.

Mr King said: "The numbers coming into our schools at the start of lockdown last March was quite low – for example on March 23, 12 pupils attended Hartlebury CE Primary, whereas there were 33 on Monday (January 11)."

The trust's two secondary schools, Baxter College and Stourport High School, both started lockdown last March with fewer than 10 pupils and although the figure fluctuated, on Monday they reported 37 and 36 pupils on-site respectively.

Mr King said the trust's five primary schools were seeing an average of 22% of

their pupils on-site.

SAET schools, however, are not catering for as many children on-site as some schools around the country who have reported up to 60% of their normal role attending.

The highest so far for the trust, based on Monday's attendance, has been 27% at Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy.

Mr King said: "The impact in terms of the percentage of those on roll being taught on-site is, as expected, greater in the primary sector. The numbers attending our two secondary schools, although much higher than last March, represents only 3-4% of their rolls.

The definition of key workers is an extensive list and maybe fewer people are working from home this time.

"It may also be that those who are home-based feel unable to juggle their own work with supervising their children's home learning as well at this time.

"Our schools work closely with their families to ensure the best and safest provision is being made for all our children.

"We have all the stringent protocols in place in our schools to protect pupils and staff and our two secondary schools are also regularly testing all those on-site for coronavirus. I am pleased to report there have been no positive tests to date."

Mr King added that all schools were teaching a full curriculum online with paper copies of work for students struggling at home to access wifi or appropriate devices.

Four-legged friend recruited to SHS



A four-legged recruit to Stourport High School's pastoral team is proving a big hit with students and staff.

Ned, a four-year-old springerdoodle, is being trained as a therapy dog to support counselling, reading sessions, outdoor activities and general wellbeing.

He goes into school three days a week and has been involved in lots of different activities, but will start working with students more in the new year.

Principal Mr Sheers said: "Ned has the perfect temperament for a busy environment and is making many friends across our school community.

"It's well-known that animals, and especially dogs, have a positive influence on wellbeing and I'm sure Ned will more than earn his biscuits."

Fun in the Snow!





The students of Wolverley Sebright Primary Academy have been enjoying creating snow sculptures and snowmen during our recent weekend of snow!

You can see Polly sitting in her snow chair and snow table, Oscar is sledding, Travis is standing next to his snowman created on the ground, and the snowman by himself was created by George!

Hartlebury's Scrabble Superstar!



Josh in Year 1 would like to share that he won against all of his family in their weekly game of scrabble.

Josh won the game with an incredible score of 165.

Josh would normally play with his Mum sharing her words, but he has become so good at spelling that he now has his own words.

To top it off, he even did his own adding up with each word.

Look at that beaming smile too. It shines as bright as you did in your scrabble game.

Well done Josh! You should be very proud of yourself.

'The Princess' Blankets' at Stourport Primary Academy!



Some of the work that Years 5 and 6 have been working on include a project inspired by the book 'The Princess' Blankets' by Carol Anne Duffy. The children currently in school have designed and created felt patches that are currently being sewn together to make our very own blanket for the Princess. Linked to children's Mental Health Awareness Week, the blanket aims to display the artistic talent of all the children in Years 5 and 6. Well done for the amazing work!

SCITT Open Evening!

TRAIN to TEACH Open Evening

Thinking about a career in teaching?

Why not join us at our next virtual open evening on Thursday 18th March to find out about our Primary & Secondary School Centred Initial Teacher Training programmes?

Email scitt@saet.co.uk to book your place!



STOURPORT SCITT
SIXTH ACADEMY EDUCATIONAL TRUST

www.stourportscitt.com

What has SAET been supporting recently!

WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT



#ChildrensMentalHealthWeek

Recently, SAET have been showing our support for Children's Mental Health Week (1st - 7th February), National Apprenticeship Week (8th - 14th February) and Safer Internet Day (9th February)!

Be sure to follow our Trust Twitter page to keep up to date with the latest celebrations, campaigns we are supporting and useful resources!

Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week 2021
8 to 14 February



We are supporting
Safer Internet Day 2021!



Safer
Internet
Day 2021 | Tuesday
9 February

saferinternetday.org.uk

Train to Teach with SCITT!

TRAIN to TEACH with Stourport SCITT

Stourport SCITT
www.stourportscitt.com

"Diverse & relevant experience of real life teachers!"

"Early support network. I was made to feel very welcome by all of the staff!"

"Being a part of the club is the best feeling!"

"The course is well structured, all the professional resources are really approachable and supported."

Stourport SCITT is the largest established School Centred Initial Teacher Training Provider in placements within local primary & secondary schools. Excellent rates of employment. Bursaries available.

For more information t: 01562 542574 e: scitt@saet.co.uk



SAET TRAINING CENTRE

What's on?

First Marshal Training - 15 December 2020 (9.30am - 3pm)

This course is designed for learners to build an understanding of fire safety management and the specific roles and responsibilities related to fire safety in the workplace. This award is suitable for anyone who has a specific responsibility for fire safety in the workplace, such as designated fire wardens/fire marshals. £75 per person (includes course materials and certification - valid for 3 years).

Emergency First Aid at Work - 28 January 2021 (9.30am - 4.30pm)

The aim of this one day course is to enable learners to attain the knowledge and practical competencies needed to deal with a range of emergency first aid situations. £75 per person (includes course materials & certification - valid for 3 years).

Paediatric First Aid - 25 & 26 January 2021 (9.30am - 4.30pm)

This 12 hour course is suitable for nurseries/pre school, childminders and primary schools who need to meet their Ofsted required 12 hours of training, as well as parents with young children. Covers a wide range of paediatric injuries, illnesses and emergencies. £135 per person (includes course materials and certification - valid for 3 years).

First Aid at Work 2 Day Requalification - 1 & 2 February 2021 (9.30am - 4.30pm)

This course is suitable for those who have previously undertaken a three day First Aid at Work course and need to renew their qualification. £135 per person (includes course materials and certification - valid for 3 years).

First Aid at Work 3 Day Course - 23, 24 & 25 March 2021 (9.30am - 4.30pm)

This 3 day course is suitable for those who have a specific responsibility at work to provide first aid when dealing with an emergency situation. This award allows successful candidates to be a designated first aider. £195 per person (includes course materials and certification - valid for 3 years).

Emergency First Aid at Work - 18 May 2021 (9.30am - 4.30pm)

Paediatric First Aid - 26 & 27 May 2021 (9.30am - 4.30pm)

First Aid at Work 2 Day Requalification - 9 & 10 June 2021 (9.30am - 4.30pm)

CONTACT US:

01563 542574 (option 3)

www.saet.co.uk/trainingcentre



TRAINING CENTRE
SEVERN ACADÉMIES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

FOLLOW OUR TRUST TWITTER!

[View this email in your browser](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

Copyright © 2020 Severn Academies Educational Trust, All rights reserved.

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Severn Academies Educational Trust · Wyre Forest House · Finepoint Way · Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 7WF · United Kingdom

